

**CLAIMS:**

1       1.     A check-out method for a product having an identification associated  
2       therewith, comprising the steps of:

3             assigning one or more physical characteristics to said identification;

4             storing said one or more physical identification, said characteristics and said  
5       assignment there between;

6             recognizing said identification when a consumer checks out said product;

7             recalling said one or more physical characteristics;

8             establishing one or more physical features for said product;

9             comparing said one or more physical characteristics to said one or more  
10       physical features;

11            generating a signal after said one or more physical characteristics substantially  
12       match said one or more physical features; and

13            deactivating any security tag connected to said product after receipt of said  
14       signal.

1       2.     The method according to claim 1 wherein said one or more physical  
2       characteristics and said one or more physical features pertain to weight.

1       3.     The method according to claim 1 wherein said one or more physical  
2       characteristics and said one or more physical features pertain to size.

1       4.     The method according to claim 1 wherein said one or more physical  
2       characteristics and said one or more physical features pertain to shape.

1       5.     The method according to claim 1 wherein said one or more physical  
2       characteristics and said one or more physical features pertain to color.

1       6.     The method according to claim 1 wherein said one or more physical  
2     characteristics and said one or more physical features pertain to two or more of the  
3     following: weight, shape, size, color, or surface texture.

1       7.     The method according to claim 1 further comprising the following steps:  
2             assigning to said identification whether a security tag is associated with said  
3     product; and  
4             storing said status indicative of whether a security tag is connected to said  
5     product.

1       8.     The method according to claim 7 wherein said following steps occur only  
2     when said step of assigning to said identification whether a security tag is connected  
3     to said product indicates a security tag is connected to said product:  
4             recalling said one or more physical characteristics;  
5             establishing one or more physical features for said product;  
6             comparing said one or more physical characteristics to said features;  
7             generating a signal after said one or more physical characteristics  
8             substantially match said one or more physical features; and  
9             deactivating any security tag connected to said product after receipt of  
10    said signal.

1       9.     A check-out method for a product having security tags associated therewith,  
2       comprising the steps of:

3             storing one or more physical characteristics for said products;  
4             recalling said one or more physical characteristics when a consumer checks  
5       out said product;

6             placing said products in a substantially enclosed area;  
7             examining said products while said products are in said substantially enclosed  
8       area;

9             establishing one or more physical features for said products while said  
10       products are in said substantially enclosed area;

11            comparing said one or more physical characteristics to said one or more  
12       physical features;

13            generating a signal after said one or more physical characteristics substantially  
14       match said one or more physical features; and

15            deactivating said tags with a deactivation device after receipt of said signal  
16       while said products are in said substantially enclosed area.

1       10.    The method according to claim 9 wherein said one or more physical  
2       characteristics and said one or more physical features pertain to weight.

1       11.    The method according to claim 9 wherein said characteristics and said  
2       features pertain to size.

1       12.    The method according to claim 9 wherein said one or more physical  
2       characteristics and said one or more physical features pertain to shape.

1       13.    The method according to claim 9 wherein said one or more physical  
2       characteristics and said one or more physical features pertain to color.

1       14.    The method according to claim 9 wherein said one or more physical  
2       characteristics and said one or more physical features pertain to two or more of the  
3       following: weight, size, shape, color or surface texture.

1       15.    The method according to claim 9 further comprising the step of ensuring no  
2       other object is in said substantially enclosed area once said product has been placed in  
3       said substantially enclosed area but before said tag has been deactivated.

1       16.    The method according to claim 15 further comprising the step of generating  
2       an alert signal if another object, in addition to said product, is detected to be in said  
3       substantially enclosed area once said product has been placed in said substantially  
4       enclosed area but before said tag has been deactivated.

1       17.    The method according to claim 16 further comprising the step of preventing  
2       any deactivation of said tag once said alert signal has been generated.

1 18. A check-out system for a product having an identification associated  
2 therewith, comprising:

3 a database for storing one or more physical characteristics for said product;

4 a register means for retrieving from said database said characteristics;

5 means for establishing one or more physical features for said product while  
6 said product is in said substantially enclosed area;

7 means for comparing said one or more physical characteristics to said one or  
8 more physical features;

9 means for generating a signal after said one or more physical characteristics  
10 substantially match said one or more physical features; and

11 means for deactivating a security tag connected to said product with a  
12 deactivation device after receipt of said signal.

1 19. The system according to claim 18 wherein said one or more physical  
2 characteristics and said one or more physical features pertain to weight.

1 20. The system according to claim 18 wherein said one or more physical  
2 characteristics and said one or more physical features pertain to size.

1 21. The system according to claim 18 wherein said one or more physical  
2 characteristics and said one or more physical features pertain to shape.

1 22. The system according to claim 18 wherein said one or more physical  
2 characteristics and said one or more physical features pertain to color.

1 23. The system according to claim 18 wherein said one or more physical  
2 characteristics and said one or more physical features pertain to two or more of the  
3 following: weight, size, shape, color or surface texture.

1     24.    A check-out system for a product having a security tag and identification  
2     associated therewith, comprising:

3           a database for storing one or more physical characteristics for said product;

4           a scanner for retrieving from said database said characteristics;

5           a physical characteristic evaluator for establishing one or more physical  
6     features for said product while said product is in said substantially enclosed area;

7           a computer for comparing said characteristics to said features;

8           an electronic circuit for generating a signal after said one or more physical  
9     characteristics substantially match said one or more physical features; and

10          a deactivation device for deactivating said tag with a deactivation device after  
11     receipt of said signal while said product is in said substantially enclosed area.

1     25.    The system according to claim 24 wherein said one or more physical  
2     characteristics and said one or more physical features pertain to weight.

1     26.    The system according to claim 24 wherein said one or more physical  
2     characteristics and said one or more physical features pertain to size.

1     27.    The system according to claim 24 wherein said one or more physical  
2     characteristics and said one or more physical features pertain to shape.

1     28.    The system according to claim 24 wherein said one or more physical  
2     characteristics and said one or more physical features pertain to color.

1     29.    The system according to claim 24 wherein said one or more physical  
2     characteristics and said one or more physical features pertain to two or more of the  
3     following: weight, size, shape, color or surface texture.

1       30.     The system according to claim 24 further comprising a means for ensuring no  
2       other object is in said substantially enclosed area once said product has been placed in  
3       said substantially enclosed area but before said tag has been deactivated.

1       31.     The system according to claim 30 further comprising means for generating an  
2       alert signal if another object, in addition to said product, is detected to be in said  
3       substantially enclosed area once said product has been placed in said substantially  
4       enclosed area but before said tag has been deactivated.

1       32.     The system according to claim 31 further comprising means for preventing  
2       any deactivation of said tag once said alert signal has been generated.